

# SEPARATE ME BARNABAS AND SAUL

## Acts 13:1-4

**Acts 13:1** *In the church.* Antioch. One main church in Antioch.

Up until this time center of missionary outreach was Jerusalem under leadership of Peter.

Now, center of missions changed to Antioch of Syria with Saul at helm.

**Prophets and teachers:** men who spoke with authority from God. Foundation or backbone of church.

4 of these 5 men were Hellenists--Jews born outside Holy Land. Born in land of Gentiles. Spoke language of Gentiles--Greek

God chose men familiar with culture,

**Barnabas** -- Levite from island of Cyprus. Real name Joseph. Nickname, Barnabas Son of Encouragement...Son of Consolation...Son of Prophecy

Kind and giving man.

**Simeon--** *Simon a Cyrenian* ...father of Alexander and Rufus (Mk 15:21). Carried cross for Jesus.

**Lucius--** Africa. Led to Christ by Simon.

**Manaen--** Intimate friend (perhaps adopted foster brother) of Herod Antipas, who killed John the Baptist. Man of rank.

**Saul** -- Apostle. Many gifts. Dedicated to spreading of gospel and glory of God.

Believers Bible Commentary: *These five men illustrate that the early church was integrated and color-blind as far as man's skin is concerned. "A new measuring stick has been brought into being: it is not who you are but whose.*

These 5 men--founders of first missions program to Gentiles

**Acts 13:2 Minister:** originally "*to discharge a public office.*"

Implies spiritual service unto Lord which involved sacrifice.

Effective ministry always requires sacrifice.

**Ministered:** describes priestly service. The way you serve is the way you worship.

**To the Lord.** God was their audience!

Things to consider

Motivation

Focus

Effort

Faithfulness

Quality

Attitude

Fruit

Relationships

*As they were ministering...* While in midst of faithfully discharging their ministry to the Lord the Holy Spirit spoke to them.

*Separate:* set apart; designate; appoint

*For the work:* for specific job I have in mind ...preaching the gospel in regions around Antioch.

Later, He would call them to work of ministry throughout Asia Minor and regions beyond.

Procedure – Holy Spirit calls ... church confirms, commissions, sends

Holy Spirit called them to specific work.

Only thing man can do is confirm and send

God's call to ministry

1. Those already faithful in ministry
2. God calls
3. Doesn't put shirkers on the field
4. Timing is vital.

**Acts 13:3** ...*laid their hands on them*

Agreement

Oneness of spirit

Sympathetic to needs and direction

Healing

Imparting the Spirit

Ordination

*sent them away.* Since Holy Spirit called them, all they could do was to cut them loose.